

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of)

Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)

Table of Allotments,)

FM Broadcast Stations)

(Mt. Union, Huntingdon, Centre Hall, and)

South Williamsport, Pennsylvania))

MB Docket No. 03-231

RM-10818

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REPLY COMMENTS OF DAME BROADCASTING, LLC

ORIGINAL

January 20, 2004

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
I. Commission Policies Disfavor Move-In Petitions.....	2
II. Centre Hall Is Not A Community For Allotment Purposes And Therefore Is Not Entitled To A First Local Service Preference.	3
A. Centre Hall Has Been Absorbed into the State College Metropolis.	4
B. Megahertz Has Failed to Demonstrate Centre Hall's Independence Under the <i>Tuck</i> Criteria.....	6
III. The Commission Should Preserve Existing Service.....	10
IV. If The Commission Determines That Centre Hall Is A Community For Allotment Purposes, The Commission Should Allow Dame A Centre Hall-Boalsburg Dual City Allotment.	11
V. Conclusion	11

SUMMARY

Dame Broadcasting, LLC submits the following Reply Comments in response to the comments filed by Megahertz Licenses, LLC (“Megahertz” or “Petitioner”) in support of Megahertz’s petition to amend the FM Table of Allotments so as to upgrade station WXMJ(FM) to Class B1 status and to move the station into the State College, Pennsylvania market by allotting WXMJ a new community of license, Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, in place of its current community of license, Mount Union, Pennsylvania.

As Dame stated in its initial comments, Megahertz’s proposal is designed to allow Megahertz’s WXMJ(FM) to serve 100% of the already well-served State College market --not the 1,079 people that live in Centre Hall. Dame urges the Commission to reject Megahertz’s proposal because the Petitioner has failed to establish that Centre Hall is a community for allotment purposes and sufficiently distinct from State College to justify a first local service preference under the Commission’s FM allotment priorities. The Commission has an obligation to ensure that less densely populated areas, such as Mount Union, are not abandoned for more populous ones -- under the guise of providing a first local service to a location that amounts to nothing more than a suburb of a metropolitan area. The Commission also is tasked with the responsibility of preserving existing service, particularly in cases such as this one where new underserved area would be created in order to provide yet another service to an already well-served community. Disrupting existing service to over 1,300 people not only is inconsistent with Commission precedent, but it also fails to serve the public interest.

If the Commission determines that Centre Hall is a community for allotment purposes, the Commission should allow Dame a Centre Hall-Boalsburg dual city allotment. Unlike MegaHertz’s proposal, Dame would not have to relocate its transmitter site in order to

serve Centre Hall. Station WBUS(FM) already provides a 70 dBu signal to Centre Hall from its existing transmitter site. A dual city allotment would serve the public interest because it ensures residents of Centre Hall a first local transmission service without interrupting existing service to any community.

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Amendment of Section 73.202(b),)	MB Docket No. 03-231
Table of Allotments,)	RM-10818
FM Broadcast Stations)	
(Mt. Union, Huntingdon, Centre Hall, and)	
South Williamsport, Pennsylvania))	

REPLY COMMENTS OF DAME BROADCASTING, LLC

Dame Broadcasting, LLC ("Dame"), parent company of the licensees of WBUS(FM), Boalsburg, PA; WRSC(AM), State College, PA; WQWK(FM), University Park, PA; WJHT(FM), Port Matilda, PA; and WBLF(AM), Bellefonte, PA, hereby submits its Reply Comments in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ Megahertz Licenses, LLC ("Megahertz" or "Petitioner") petitioned the Commission to commence this proceeding to amend the FM Table of Allotments.² Megahertz and Dame filed comments in response to the NPRM.³

As Dame noted in the Dame Comments, Megahertz's proposal is designed to allow Megahertz's WXMJ(FM) to serve 100% of the already well-served State College market -- not the 1,079 people that live in Centre Hall. As demonstrated below, the Commission should dismiss the Petition because Megahertz has failed to establish that Centre Hall is a community for allotment purposes and sufficiently distinct from State College to justify a first local service

¹ *In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Mt. Union, Huntingdon, Centre Hall, and South Williamsport, Pennsylvania), Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, DA 03-3552 (rel. Nov. 14, 2003) ("NPRM").*

² Petition for Rulemaking of Megahertz Licenses LLC filed in MB Docket No. 03-231, RM-10818 on Jan. 3, 2003 ("Petition").

³ Comments of Megahertz Licenses, LLC filed in MB Docket No. 03-231, RM-10818 on Jan. 5, 2004 ("Megahertz Comments"); Comments of Dame Broadcasting, LCC filed in MB Docket No. 03-231, RM 10818 on Jan. 5, 2004 ("Dame Comments").

preference under the Commission's FM allotment priorities. Alternatively, if the Commission concludes that Centre Hall is a community for allotment purposes, the Commission should modify Dame's license to provide for a Centre Hall-Boalsburg dual city allotment, rather than grant Megahertz's Petition, which will create an underserved area affecting over 1,300 people.

I. COMMISSION POLICIES DISFAVOR MOVE-IN PETITIONS.

The Commission will not blindly apply the first local service preference of the FM allotment priorities when a station seeks to reallocate a channel from a rural community to a suburban community of a nearby urban area.⁴ In fact, the Commission has acknowledged that an inflexible approach to first local service allotments "without further analysis, could consistently result in [a] finding that a reallocation leading to first local service for a suburb of a much larger adjacent metropolitan center justifies removing a local service from a *more remote* community."⁵ Transforming WXMJ from a station that serves the sparsely populated rural area of Mount Union into a station that serves a much larger city is precisely what Megahertz seeks to do. The Commission has an obligation to ensure that less densely populated areas, such as Mount Union, are not abandoned for more populous ones⁶ -- under the guise of providing a first local service to a location that amounts to nothing more than a suburb of a metropolitan area.

⁴ *Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 5 FCC Rcd 7094, 7096 (1990) ("New Community Order").

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *See Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, (Sumter, Orangeburg and Columbia, South Carolina)*, Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 6376, 6377 ¶ 7 (1996) (stating "we do not believe that a mathematical calculation . . . adequately captures, by itself, the public interest considerations we must take into account. If we were to strictly adhere to such mathematical formulae, we could well find it desirable to remove services from rural areas to more populous areas.").

II. CENTRE HALL IS NOT A COMMUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT PURPOSES AND THEREFORE IS NOT ENTITLED TO A FIRST LOCAL SERVICE PREFERENCE.

Just as Dame predicted in its Comments, Megahertz has failed to demonstrate that Centre Hall is sufficiently independent of State College to warrant a first local service allotment under the criteria established in *Tuck*.⁷ As an initial matter, Dame notes that Petitioner's argument that a *Tuck* analysis is not required here because Centre Hall falls outside of the State College Urbanized Area is contrary to Commission precedent.⁸ In fact, since 1995, the Commission has required a *Tuck* showing if a station proposes to provide a 70 dBu signal to 50% or more of an urbanized area, *even if the proposed community of license is not located within that urbanized area*.⁹ As the Commission stated in the NPRM, WXMJ will place a 70 dBu signal over 100% of the State College Urbanized Area.¹⁰ For this reason, the Commission appropriately directed Megahertz to provide a *Tuck* showing demonstrating that Centre Hall is independent of State College.

The Commission relies on criteria established in *Tuck* to determine whether a community should be awarded a first local service preference. The criteria are as follows: (1)

⁷ *Faye & Richard Tuck, Inc.; KBEC, Waxahachie, Texas; Bluebonnet Radio Broadcasters, Inc., Plano, Texas; Century Broadcasting Corp. Garland, Texas; Dontron, Inc. KPBC, Garland, Texas; For Construction Permit for a New AM Station*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 3 FCC Rcd 5374 (1988) ("*Tuck*").

⁸ Megahertz Comments at 2.

⁹ *Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Headland, Alabama and Chattahoochee, Florida*, Report and Order, 10 FCC Rcd 10352 (1995); *see also, Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Darien, Rincon and Statesboro, Georgia)*, *Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Screven, Rincon, and Statesboro, Georgia; Palatka and Middleburg, Florida*, Report and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 20485 (2002) (requiring *Tuck* showing even though the proposed community of license was located within 35 kilometers of the urbanized area).

¹⁰ NPRM at ¶ 5.

signal population coverage; (2) the size of the suburban community relative to the adjacent city; and (3) the interdependence of the suburban community with the central city. The Commission evaluates the third criterion by analyzing eight additional factors: (1) the extent to which the community residents work in the larger metropolitan area, rather than the specified community; (2) whether the smaller community has its own newspaper or other media that cover the community's needs and interests; (3) whether the community leaders and residents perceive the specified community as being an integral part of, or separate from, the larger metropolitan area; (4) whether the specified community has its own local government and elected officials; (5) whether the smaller community has its own telephone book provided by the local phone company or zip code; (6) whether the community has its own commercial establishments, health facilities, and transportation systems; (7) the extent to which the specified community and the central city are part of the same advertising market; and (8) the extent to which the specified community relies upon the larger metropolitan area for various municipal services such as police, fire protection, schools, and libraries. The Commission considers a community independent when a majority of these factors are satisfied.¹¹ Megahertz fails to satisfy a majority of the *Tuck* factors.

A. **Centre Hall Has Been Absorbed into the State College Metropolis.**

Centre Hall, only 10 miles east of State College, is an integral part of the larger State College metropolis. The population of Centre Hall is a mere 2.8% of the population of State College, and less than 1% of the population of Centre County (.79%), the county seat of both Centre Hall and State College. From 1990-2000, the population in Centre County grew by

¹¹ See Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Parker and St. Joe, Florida), Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 1095 (MM Bur. 1996); Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Jupiter and Hobe Sound, Florida), Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 3570 (MM Bur. 1997).

8.8 percent, while the state population only grew by 3.4%. Given Centre Hall's close proximity to and its strong social and economic connections with State College, it is clear that the Petition is an attempt to abandon the sparsely populated radio market in Mount Union in order to establish WXMJ as a major player in the more populous and growing, but already well-served, State College market.

In an attempt to demonstrate that community leaders and residents perceive themselves as separate from State College, Megahertz places heavy reliance on Centre Hall's early history. Suburban residential development and commercial growth, however, have dramatically changed the relationship between State College and the communities that surround it. State College and Centre Hall are no longer the separate and distinct communities that they once may have been. Roads connecting Centre Hall and State College, such as Pennsylvania Route 45, are no longer the country roads that they once were.¹² Many such highways, once used as truck routes, have developed into commuter routes. For example, approximately 60% of automobiles on Route 45 travel between State College and east of Centre Hall.¹³

Population sprawl in Centre County has strengthened the social and economic connections between Centre Hall and State College and the surrounding area. The population of Centre County increased significantly between 1970 and 1990, growing by over 26%.¹⁴ During the 1990s, however, State College proper experienced a decline in population, while the surrounding townships, particularly those located along major highways, experienced population increases.¹⁵ Indeed, over the last 30 years significant suburban residential development and

¹² Attachment A.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ CDT Editorial Board, *Our View*, Centre Daily Times, Mar. 13, 2001, at 6A.

commercial growth in Centre Hall, Boalsburg, Potters Mills, and in Potter Township (where Centre Hall is located) have contributed to a rapid increase in traffic volumes in Centre County, as well as frequent accidents, and dramatic changes in land use. The effects of population sprawl in these communities led county transportation planners to conduct a study of the transportation deficiencies in south central Centre County.¹⁶ Rather than view Megahertz's proposal in isolation, the Commission must evaluate the Petition in the context of these significant developments.

B. **Megahertz Has Failed to Demonstrate Centre Hall's Independence Under the *Tuck* Criteria.**

With regard to the first of the eight *Tuck* criteria used to determine the independence of a suburban community, Megahertz attempts to demonstrate the extent to which residents of Centre Hall work in Centre Hall.¹⁷ However, its showing is unconvincing, consisting as it does of no more than a list of businesses located in Centre Hall. Megahertz makes no attempt to demonstrate how many persons are employed at those businesses, or the extent to which such employees are residents of Centre Hall.

In fact, available evidence shows that Centre Hall is essentially a commuter suburb of State College. U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that the mean commute time for Centre Hall residents is 25.9 minutes, and that 90% of Centre Hall's working population drive to work.¹⁸ Notably, Centre Hall is a mere .6 square miles; thus, a commute time of nearly half an hour by automobile strongly suggests that most residents work outside of Centre Hall in places such as nearby State College, the home of Penn State University, the largest employer in Centre

¹⁶ Attachment A.

¹⁷ Megahertz Comments at 4.

¹⁸ Attachment B.

County, or Bellefonte, the seat of the county government, which is the county's sixth largest employer.¹⁹ By Petitioner's own admission, the drive time from Centre Hall to State College is one-half hour.²⁰ Similarly, the commute time to Bellefonte is approximately one-half hour.²¹ These facts demonstrate that Centre Hall residents work in State College, Bellefonte, or some other neighboring town -- not Centre Hall.

Megahertz concedes that it does not meet the second of the *Tuck* criteria: newspapers and media.²² With regard to the third criterion, Megahertz recites the history of Centre Hall, consisting primarily of events that occurred over one hundred years ago. It is unclear what relevance those events have to the manner in which current residents of Centre Hall perceive themselves, and no evidence in the form of statements from current residents and community leaders or otherwise has been provided with respect to this criterion.

Megahertz does indicate in its Comments that it plans to supplement its Comments in regard to the third *Tuck* factor.²³ The Commission should strike any such supplement, whether filed as part of reply comments of Megahertz or separately. Section 1.415 of the Commission's Rules contemplates a reasonable time for filing initial comments and reply comments, and does not provide a party free rein to supplement its comments at will. Therefore, the Commission has dismissed reply comments that are directed to issues raised in a notice of proposed rulemaking on the grounds that such matters should have been addressed in initial

¹⁹ Penn State University employed almost 11,000 people in 2001, while the county government employed approximately 753 people. The only Centre Hall company to make the list of top 20 employers in Centre County was the Meadows Psychiatric Center. Attachment C.

²⁰ Megahertz Comments at 8.

²¹ Attachment D.

²² Megahertz Comments at 4.

²³ Megahertz Comments at 8.

comments, and that a party should limit its reply comments to matters raised in other parties' initial comments.²⁴ The Commission requested that Megahertz fully address the *Tuck* analysis in its Comments.²⁵ Megahertz should have done so and should not be permitted to return to those matters in a supplement or in reply comments.

Regarding the fifth *Tuck* criterion, Centre Hall does not have its own phone directory. Rather, its listings are interspersed throughout the State College directory with listings from other towns.²⁶

With respect to the sixth *Tuck* criterion (commercial establishments, health facilities, and transportation systems), Megahertz is able to identify some businesses located in Centre Hall. It falls short, however, in its attempts to identify health and transportation facilities. Aside from a single physician and a four-physician psychiatric center, Megahertz is able to identify no health facilities (other than a few veterinary practices) in Centre Hall²⁷ and identifies no transportation facilities at all. There is no hospital located in Centre Hall that serves the

²⁴ *Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Chattanooga, Tennessee)*, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 3121, 3122 ¶4 (2001)(stating “reply comments are designed to provide a reasonable time for parties to respond to issues raised in original comments”). See also, *Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Fort Myers, Florida)*, Report and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 23492 note 2 (2002)(reply comments dismissed “because they raise new matters that should have been filed during the initial comment period”); *Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Oraibi and Leupp, Arizona)*, 14 FCC Rcd 13547 note 1 (1999)(“The purpose of reply comments is to address issues raised in any filed comments.”)

²⁵ NPRM at ¶ 5.

²⁶ Attachment E.

²⁷ Megahertz Comments at 6-7.

general health care needs of the town. In fact, the closest hospital addressing general health issues is located 16 miles away in State College (Centre Community Hospital).²⁸

With respect to the seventh *Tuck* criterion, Centre Hall clearly is economically linked to State College and is part of the State College advertising market. In fact, Megahertz concedes that Centre Hall is within the State College Arbitron market.²⁹ Centre Hall does not have its own media sources, as Petitioner's own exhibits demonstrate.³⁰ For example, the town does not have a newspaper that addresses its local news and information needs, the two broadcast television stations serving Centre Hall are licensed to State College, and five of the twenty FM radio stations that serve Centre Hall are licensed to State College. Most Centre Hall residents rely on the Centre Daily Times, the State College daily newspaper, and other State College media sources because they (as well as advertisers) perceive Centre Hall residents as an integral part of the State College metropolitan area.

With respect to the eighth *Tuck* criterion, Megahertz itself admits, Centre Hall is heavily dependent upon Centre County and the Potter Township for a significant number of its municipal services.³¹ For example, Centre County oversees the library that serves Centre Hall and the district justice court that serves the borough. Centre Hall junior high and high school residents attend Penns Valley Area Junior/ Senior High School, which is part of the Penns Valley Area School District that serves the following five townships: Potter, Gregg, Penn, Miles, and

²⁸ Attachment F.

²⁹ Megahertz Comments at 7.

³⁰ Exhibit 2 of Megahertz Comments.

³¹ Megahertz Comments at 8.

Haines.³² Penns Valley Area Junior/ Senior High School is physically located in Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, northeast of Centre Hall and approximately 7 miles away.³³

When, as is the case here, a petitioner is unable to show that a majority of the *Tuck* factors demonstrate that the proposed community is distinct from the urbanized area, the Commission must deny the allotment petition.

III. THE COMMISSION SHOULD PRESERVE EXISTING SERVICE.

As Dame pointed out in its Comments, the Commission should preserve existing service, particularly in cases such as this one where new underserved area would be created in order to provide yet another service to an already well-served community. According to Exhibit 1 to the Megahertz Comments, Petitioner's proposal to allot WXMJ(FM) to Centre Hall will create a loss of service to 24,115 persons, 16,769 of whom will be underserved (with four or fewer aural services). While that proposal, according to Megahertz, will result in a gain of service to over 190,000 persons, only 561 of those persons are currently underserved.

As the Commission has explained in the past, "the public has a legitimate expectation that existing service will continue."³⁴ Accordingly, the Commission will weigh this expectation "independently against the service benefits that may result from allotting a channel from one community to another, regardless of whether the service removed constitutes a transmission service, a reception service or both."³⁵ As Dame stated in its Comments, disrupting

³² Attachment F.

³³ Attachment G.

³⁴ *In the Matter of Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License*, 4 FCC Rcd 4870, 4873 (1989) recon. granted in part, 5 FCC Rcd 7094, 7097 ¶ 19 (1990).

³⁵ *Id.*

existing service on a net basis to over 1,300 people who will, as a result, be underserved is inconsistent with Commission precedent and does not serve the public interest.

IV. IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT CENTRE HALL IS A COMMUNITY FOR ALLOTMENT PURPOSES, THE COMMISSION SHOULD ALLOW DAME A CENTRE HALL-BOALSBURG DUAL CITY ALLOTMENT.

If, despite the facts and arguments set forth herein, the Commission determines that Centre Hall is a community for allotment purposes, then the Commission should modify Dame's license to provide for a Centre Hall-Boalsburg dual city allotment. Less than 9 miles separate Boalsburg and Centre Hall,³⁶ and as development in south central Centre County has increased, so have the common social and economic interests³⁷ that the two towns share.³⁸

Unlike MegaHertz's proposal, Dame would not have to relocate its transmitter site in order to serve Centre Hall. Station WBUS(FM) already provides a 70 dBu signal to Centre Hall from its existing transmitter site. Modifying Dame's license to include a Centre Hall-Boalsburg dual city allotment best serves the public interest because it ensures residents of Centre Hall a first local transmission service without interrupting existing service to any community.

V. CONCLUSION

As set forth in more detail above, the Commission should reject Megahertz's proposal to change the community of license for WXMJ from Mount Union, Pennsylvania, to Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. In the alternative, if the Commission concludes that Centre Hall is a

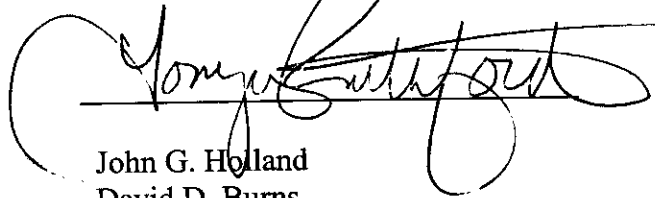
³⁶ Attachment H.

³⁷ See e.g., *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License*, Report and Order, 4 FCC Rcd 4870, n.13 (1989).

³⁸ Indeed, a 2000 study projected a significant increase in traffic volume by 2025 on Route 45 between Centre Hall and Boalsburg. Margaret Hopkins, *In the Works: County Road Projects*, Centre Daily Times, Aug. 13, 2000, at 3E.

community for allotment purposes, the Commission should modify Dame's license to provide for a Centre Hall-Boalsburg dual city allotment.

Respectfully submitted,
Dame Broadcasting LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya Rutherford", is written over a horizontal line.

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January 20, 2004

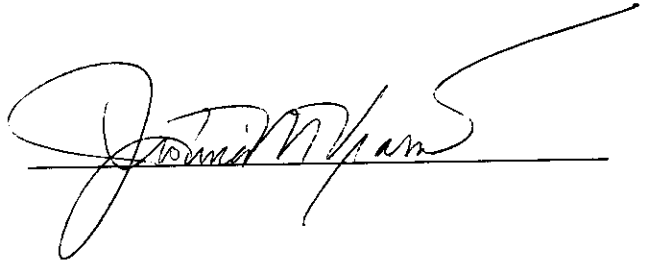
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Justina Uram, hereby certify that on this 20th day of January 2004, I caused copies of the foregoing Reply Comments of Dame Broadcasting LLC to be sent via first class mail, postage prepaid to the following:

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* Hand-delivered

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justina Uram", is written over a horizontal line.

A T T A C H M E N T A

www.scccts.com



Newsletter 3

Summer 2000

This project update is being provided to give you a glimpse of the extensive studies that have been under way since the project began last year. More detailed information on the studies will be available at a public meeting this fall or by visiting the project field office.

**For More Information
Visit our Project Office at**

Penn State Research Park
101 Innovation Blvd., Suite 103
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Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Or Call

**Toll-Free Hotline
1-877-SCCCTS
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South Central Centre County Transportation Study

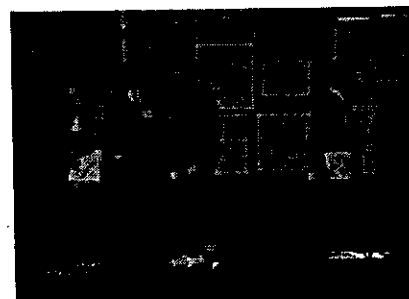
Newsletter

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation • Federal Highway Administration

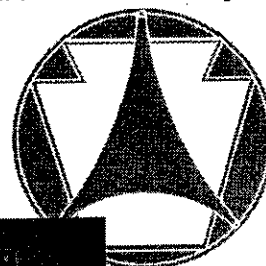
Public Meeting Planned for This Fall...

The South Central Centre County Transportation Study (SCCCTS) is progressing according to plan. A public meeting will be conducted this fall to present the information collected thus far, and for the public to provide comments. No solutions will yet be researched. The topics to be discussed at the meeting include the following:

- Traffic Study Results & Identification of "Needs"
- Performance Measures
(Community Goals & Objectives)
- Land Use Trends and Forecasts



SCCCTS Project Team and attendees discuss the project at the October 1999 Public Meeting



Open

House Public Meeting

Mountain View High School

October 3, 2000

5-9 p.m.

The public meeting will be held at Mountain View High School, 1000 Mountain View Road, State College, PA 16803.

For more information, call 877-SCCCTS or visit our website at www.scccts.com.

What Are Project "Needs"?

The requirement for defining the "need" for a transportation project is found in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). "Needs" must be defined for all transportation projects to a level of detail consistent with the complexity and type of project, and the size of the study area for the project. The "Needs" are used to explain the specific transportation problems or deficiencies which have generated the search for improvements. This information is used to establish the purpose, type, size and location of any proposed transportation improvements, and thus ensure that only prudent, feasible and practicable solutions are being considered. Preliminary solutions are anticipated to be developed via a CAC/Agency workshop and presented to the public in early 2001.

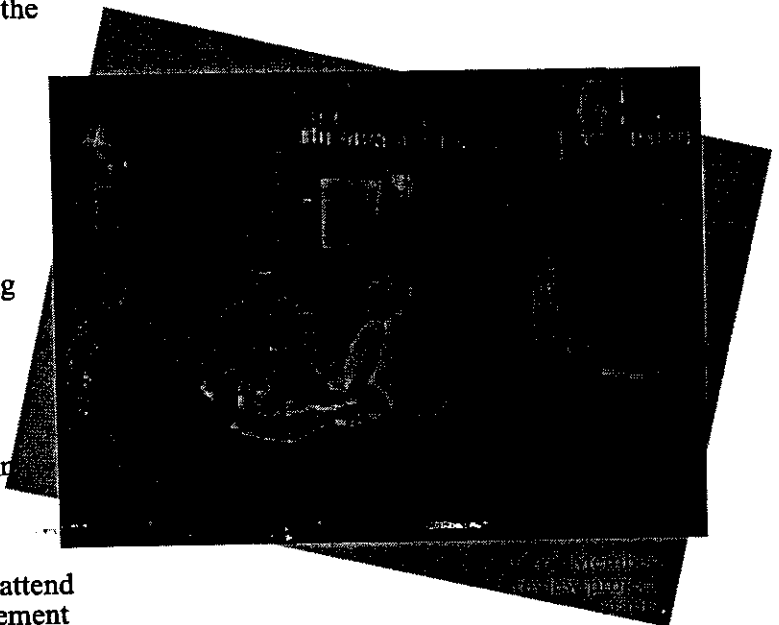
Community Advisory Committee Works For You...

Public involvement is critical to the success of every transportation project. That's why PennDOT includes the community in each stage of a project, from planning through engineering.

PennDOT established a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for this project to heighten the Department's awareness of community issues and provide a forum to exchange information regularly. The CAC helps the project team become aware of values, opinions and concerns for consideration during the project's development.

The CAC is comprised of people representing a balance of interests throughout the study area. Meetings are held monthly at various locations in the project study area. The minutes of each meeting are posted on the website.

In addition to obtaining feedback from the CAC, PennDOT will continue to conduct public meetings, attend special group meetings and coordinate public involvement directly through the project office. The monthly CAC meetings are now open for public observation. PennDOT is also providing information through newsletters and the project website.



SCCCTS CAC MEMBERS

Bellefonte
Candace Dannake

Centre County
Commission
Keith Bieri

Centre County
Planning Commission
Bob Cornman

Centre County
Planning Office
Bob Donaldson

Centre Hall Borough
Mark Heimzelman

Clearwater
Conservancy
Walt Ebaugh

College Township
Lee Shields

CR/MPO
Elminda Perent

CRPA
Bob Bini

Grege Township
Jay R. Lynch

Haines Township
David Atkins

Harris Township
John Hall

Marion Township
Christian Vinter-Johansen

Mifflin County
John McCollough

Mount Nittany
Conservancy
Ben Bronstein

Patton Township
Dan Rong

Penn. Township
Tim Bowser

Penns Valley
Community Vision
Bill Fleckenstein

Penns Valley
Conservation Association
Jay Sleison

PSU
Bob Enley

Potter Township
Paul B. Zerb

Spring Township
John Hummer

State College
Borough
Bill Welch

Trout Unlimited
Thomas Doman

Valley Partnership
for Transportation
Alternatives
Jim Shortle

Walker Township
Charles Snyder

SCCCTS Facts...

This section is dedicated to bringing you significant project related facts that the Project Team has collected over the past year about the SCCCTS Project Area.

Did you know that there are ...

- 45,469 total acres
- 8 Natural Heritage Areas
- 3,593 acres of State Forest
- 30,160 residents (estimate)
- 887 acres of mines & quarries
- 128 known archaeological sites
- 79 sinkholes
- 1,038 acres of prison property
- 11,722 housing units within the local municipalities
- 1,205 acres of parkland
- 162 acres of water
- 19,474 acres of agricultural land
- 112 Agricultural Security Areas
- 1,278 acres of floodplain

... in the study area?

Land Use + Population Growth = More Traffic...

In the past, land use in the study area was primarily agricultural with development localized and concentrated in such areas as State College, Boalsburg, Centre Hall Borough and Pleasant Gap. Over the last 30 years suburban residential development in College and Harris townships has occurred around the historic towns of Boalsburg, Oak Hall, Lemont, and Linden Hall. Residential and commercial growth has also occurred near Potters Mills, Old Fort, and Centre Hall Borough, in Potter Township and near Pleasant Gap, in Spring Township.

Population Growth

The population of Centre County grew by over 26% between 1970 and 1990. The Centre Region has accounted for much of this growth, as it claims over one-half of the population of Centre County. Spring, College, and Harris townships are the only townships that are within the study area and included in the Centre Region. Study area municipalities (College, Harris, Spring, Benner and Potter townships and Centre Hall Borough) experienced, on average, a 33% growth rate between 1970 and 1990, with Benner and Potter townships seeing the most significant population increases.

More Traffic...

Traffic volumes within the study area have been increasing rapidly over the past ten years. Study area roads have experienced a 1% - 8% growth rate per year (see table at right), whereas roads of similar function elsewhere in Pennsylvania have experienced a 2% per year growth rate. Historic volume and classification counts were also obtained from PennDOT and the Centre Regional Planning Agency to determine changes in vehicle type, volume and travel patterns.

SCCCTS Area Population Growth

1970-1990	1970	1980	1990	% Increase
College Township	5,834	6,239	7,677	32%
Harris Township	3,504	3,415	5,116	46%
Spring Township	4,920	5,006	5,342	8%
Benner Township	2,470	3,462	5,085	105%
Potter Township	1,878	2,627	3,021	61%
Centre Hall Borough	1,282	1,235	1,237	0%
Study Area Total	19,906	22,000	26,496	33%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

SCCCTS Area Traffic Growth Rate

Location	Year / Volume	1999 Volume	Annual Growth Rate
PA 45 near Elks Club Road	1989 / 5,297	7,422	4.1% / year
Mount Nittany Expressway	1988 / 10,521	13,597	3.3% / year
U.S. 322 east of Elks Club Road	1988 / 7,949	10,863	3.3% / year
U.S. 322 east of Potters Mills	1990 / 9,044	12,395	4.0% / year
PA 144 between U.S. 322 and PA 45	1991 / 5,964	4,294	0.76% / year

We Will Come to You...

Want to learn more about the South Central Centre County Transportation Study Project (SCCCTS)? Then consider having the members of the project team visit your school or organization. The program is free of charge, educational, and helpful to exchange information.

Some of the groups taking advantage of the program include:

Spring Creek Watershed Commission Valley Township of Allametsville
Centre County Historical Society Athens
Olean Valley Association Various religious organizations
Olean State University

Our engineers, environmental scientists and communications specialists can provide audiences with a step-by-step explanation of the project development process. Audiences may be surprised to learn of all the details involved along the way — details such as the determination of project goals, the development of alignment alternatives and how the valuable participation of the community makes a great impact on a project.

SCCCTS Safety Analysis...

Safety on the roadways in the SCCCTS study area is a key component of the traffic analysis. Crash information was collected from PennDOT for 1993 to 1998 on the four study area roadways (U.S. 322, PA 45, PA 144, and Brush Valley Road). The information was analyzed and resulted in a number of conclusions, a few of which are listed below:

- U.S. 322 experiences a fatal crash rate that is more than double the statewide average for similar types of roadways (12 of the 15 fatal crashes in the study area occurred on U.S. 322).
- Heavy trucks are not involved in an excessive number of crashes, and they were not at fault in any of the fatal accidents.
- U.S. 322 experienced 44% of the 577 study area crashes and experienced a higher percentage of sideswipe, non-collision, and head-on crashes than the other roadways in the study area.

and Road Inventory...

In addition to the crash analyses, roadway geometry and characteristics were also studied. A closer look at each of the four roadways within the study area revealed additional problems.

U.S. 322 experiences deficiencies such as:

- Numerous driveways, poor sight distance at intersections, poor vertical and horizontal sight distances along the travel lanes, and drainage and erosion problems.

PA 144 has several roadway deficiencies associated with it. Examples of these deficiencies include:

- Geometry that does not meet current design criteria (sharp curves, and steep grades), poor and narrow shoulders, and objects close to the travel lanes.

PA 45 had the least amount of reportable accidents of the four roadways within the study area. However, PA 45 has road conditions (numerous driveways, limited sight distance, and minimal shoulders) similar to the other roads under study.

Study Area Roads Serve Local Community and Nation...

To gain a more thorough understanding of truck travel patterns across the Commonwealth as well as through and within the

SOCCITS area, the team researched truck studies completed for other projects, including those of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Such studies investigated origins and destinations of all interchanges along the Turnpike system. The team also researched truck travel entering and exiting Pennsylvania from Delaware on PA 45 and New York on U.S. 322. The analysis confirms that U.S. 322 is not only a popular route in Central Pennsylvania, but also serves as a nationwide connection between ports in Philadelphia and Delaware to the Great Lakes region.

This analysis provided the following information:

Past studies as well as the 1999 Origin & Destination (O-D) study show that approximately 70% of tractor-trailers on U.S. 322 are traveling through the study area to reach I-80 and points west of the SOCCITS area. This is consistent with the 1988 and 1995 O-D studies that concluded approximately 70% of the trucks surveyed on Seven Mountains (U.S. 322) are destined for I-80 and points west.

Approximately 40% of heavy trucks traveling on U.S. 322 have at least one stop in the State College area.

Approximately 60% of automobiles on Route 45 travel between State College and east of Centre Hall.

The 1999 study shows that approximately 70% of two-lane local travel on trucks on U.S. 322 are traveling to and from State College.

According to the information obtained from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) and PennDOT:

1. the highest volumes of tractor-trailers in Pennsylvania are using the major interstate routes;
2. the volume of tractor-trailers through the SOCCITS area is lower than volumes on U.S. 30, I-80, I-76, and I-95;
3. tractor-trailers using PA 30 and PA 45 as routes between the origin and destination points of Philadelphia, Delaware and markets west of Pennsylvania contribute to the through-truck volume being experienced in the SOCCITS area.

PA 45 is a Developing Commuter Route...

The increasing development of the Centre Region is evident as one travels from State College, east toward Centre Hall and beyond. Land use along PA 45 has changed significantly over the past thirty years. This was once primarily an agricultural corridor with small towns located sporadically along the route.

Over the past thirty years PA 45 has experienced a change in its usage. In the past, the primary use of PA 45 was as a regional route. Trucks and regional traffic used PA 45 to gain access to the Centre Region from the Lewisburg area or the small towns that are located along the corridor. Boroughs such as Millheim and Spring Mills utilized PA 45 to provide access into the State College area.

Over the years, development patterns have changed and extensive housing development has occurred along PA 45. As a result, the current traffic reflects a much higher commuter pattern than previous studies.

In 1988 the traffic volume was 7,550 Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) near the Mount Nittany Expressway. Currently, the traffic volume at the same location is stated as 8,667 AADT. This current AADT drops to 6,641 vehicles per day east of PA 144 and the village of Old Fort. During the peak hour, which is in the early morning, 1,004 vehicles use the facility per hour. This peak hour volume has shown an increase over the 1988 study and reflects the use of PA 45 as a commuter route, versus a regional or truck route as in the past. In some peak hours, traffic volumes on PA 45 are greater than or similar to those on US 322.

Cultural Resources: Local Participation Ensures Preservation

When it comes to transportation planning, Cultural Resource Preservation goals are to be of concern to engineers and planners. Local participation is critical to identifying cultural resources valued by the community. Cultural resources may include historic structures, as well as buried archaeological remains.

In order to avoid as many cultural resources in the project area as possible, the Project Team has conducted interviews with local organizations such as the Centre County Historical Society and the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. Additionally, residents from Linden Hall and Pleasant Gap have offered input. Other groups and individuals are also encouraged to provide information.